

APPLICANT(S): KRAUSZ, Eliezer et al.
SERIAL NO.: 10/718,813
FILED: November 24, 2003
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REMARKS

The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of objection and/or rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants assert that the present invention is new, non-obvious and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Status of Claims

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 have been rejected.

Claims 2-4 and 6-8 have been amended in this submission. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by these amendments.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner pointed out an inconsistency between the preambles of claim 1 and the claims dependent thereupon. Claim 1 is drafted in Jepsen format, and claims the improvement recited. Accordingly, claims 2-4 and 6-8 have been amended for purposes of consistency.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for lack of antecedent basis for "said textile reinforcing material." The claim has been amended for purposes of consistency with claim 1.

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35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a) as being unpatentable over Morris (US Patent No. 4,889,167) in view of Hauffe (US Patent No. 4,409,708).

The Examiner has stated – and Applicants agree – that Morris does not show sealing lips as recited in claim 1. The Examiner has further stated – and Applicants respectfully disagree – that Hauffe shows sealing lips.

Applicants have carefully and thoroughly inspected the disclosure of Hauffe and have been unable to find the sealing lips of the recited claim 1. Element 24 in Hauffe's Fig. 1, cited by the Examiner, merely refers to the gasket – i.e., the entire rubber interior of metal band means 16. There is no mention or teaching that “said flexible inner sleeve is provided with flexible sealing lips integral to said flexible inner sleeve on its inner face to contact said pipes” as recited in claim 1. Nor has the Examiner pointed to any reference rendering such an element of claim 1 obvious.

Accordingly, claim 1 is deemed allowable over the prior art of record, as are claims 2-4 and 6-8, which depend therefrom.

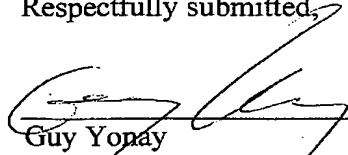
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the pending claims are deemed to be allowable. Their favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any question or comment as to the form, content or entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below. Similarly, if there are any further issues yet to be resolved to advance the prosecution of this application to issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned counsel.

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Please charge any fees associated with this paper to deposit account No. 50-3355.

Respectfully submitted,



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